

Norway Maple

(*Acer platanoides* — includes cultivars like ‘Crimson King,’ ‘Emerald Queen,’ ‘Deborah,’ ‘Royal Red’)

Norway Maple is a widely planted shade tree known for its dense canopy and deep purple-leaf cultivars. In Colorado, Norway Maple often struggles with **alkaline soils, heat stress, chlorosis, verticillium wilt, girdling roots**, and several insect pests. It grows best in **cooler, moist, well-drained soils**—conditions not ideal across much of the Front Range.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons:  Spring |  Summer |  Fall |  Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	  
Scale insects	Insect/scale	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	 

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Maple borers (flatheaded & roundheaded borers)	Insect/borer	Summer	
Leaf spot / anthracnose	Fungus	Spring–Summer	 
Verticillium wilt (high concern)	Fungus	Spring–Fall	  
Chlorosis (very common)	Abiotic	Spring–Summer	 
Leaf scorch (heat/drought stress)	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 
Girdling roots	Structural/abiotic	Visible year-round	   

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticky honeydew • Sooty mold on leaves/cars • Leaf curling or distortion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose-rinse foliage • Encourage beneficial insects • Systemic treatments for major outbreaks
Scale (oystershell, cottony, & others)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard or cottony bumps on bark • Branch dieback • Yellowing canopy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat crawler stage in late spring • Apply horticultural oil late winter • Prune heavily infested twigs

Problem	Common Symptoms	Treatment & Management
Maple Borers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D-shaped or round exit holes • Branch dieback • Boring dust at cracks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid tree stress—borers target weakened trees • Deep water during heat spells • Professional preventive sprays as needed
Anthracnose / Leaf Spot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown blotches • Early leaf drop in wet springs • Distorted leaves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake & remove leaves • Improve airflow; avoid overhead irrigation • Fungicide rarely required
Verticillium Wilt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden wilting on one side • Brown or green discoloration in sapwood • Progressive limb dieback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cure—manage stress • Prune affected limbs • Deep watering & mulch to support vigor
Chlorosis (Iron Deficiency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bright yellow leaves with green veins • Reduced growth • Canopy thinning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron trunk injections (pros) • Soil acidification treatments • Reduce overwatering in clay soils
Leaf Scorch (Heat/Drought)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown crispy edges • Leaves drop mid-summer • Early fall color 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep water every 2–3 weeks • Maintain mulch ring • Avoid reflected heat sites (south/west exposures)
Girdling Roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-sided dieback • Trunk “flat spot” at soil line • Poor canopy density 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expose root flare • Remove girdling roots (pros only) • Long-term correction may be needed

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● **When to Worry (action recommended)**

- Sudden wilting on one side (possible **Verticillium wilt**)
- Severe chlorosis causing branch decline
- Borer exit holes or piles of frass
- Heavy scale infestation with sooty mold
- Progressive canopy thinning in hot summers
- Noticeable trunk constriction/girdling roots

These issues often need **professional arborist evaluation**.

Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)

- Light anthracnose in wet springs
- Minor scorch during heat waves
- Small patches of scale
- Occasional aphid honeydew
- Early color change in drought years

These typically resolve with **seasonal conditions and proper watering**.